

Message Text

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72 (44)

ACTION NEA-12

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 OMB-01 EB-11 COME-00 TRSE-00 FAA-00

AID-20 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

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R 251415Z JUL 73

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4471

INFO AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

AMEMBASSY SANAA

C O N F I D E N T I A L JIDDA 3128

EO 11652: GDS

TAGS: ETRN, SA, YE

SUBJECT: SAUDI AIRLINES SUPPORT FOR YEMEN AIRLINES

1. WE GATHER FROM TALK WITH SAUDI AIRLINES DIRECTOR
KAMIL SAINDI THAT SAUDIA CONTINUING CONSIDER HOW BEST HELP
YAL GET BACK ON FEET.

2. SINDI COMMENTED THAT SAG SHOULD GIVE UP PIECEMEAL
APPROACH, INCLUDING INTERMITTENT GIFTS OF MISCELLANEOUS
AIRCRAFT AND PERIODIC STUDIES OF YAL OPERATIONS AND
DEVELOP INSTEAD COORDINATED LONG-RANGE PLAN FOR YAL
DEVELOPMENT.

3. THUS SINDI THINKING OF PROGRAM WHEREBY SAUDIA WOULD
SUPPLY AIRCRAFT AND CONSIDERABLE NUMBERS ADDITIONAL
STAFF REQUIRED GET YAL ROLLING ON ORDERLY BASIS. WE
GATHER FOREIGN OPERATIONS WOULD ALMOST ENTIRELY BE TAKEN
OVER BY SAUDIA WITH PERHAPS ONLY PLANE MARKINGS ALTERED
TO SHOW YAL. SINDI THOUGHT WHATEVER YEMENI PERSONNEL
NOW AVAILABLE FOR YAL OPERATION COULD BE DIRECTED TOWARD
RATHER MODEST INTERNAL SERVICE ENDEAVORS. WITH TRAINING
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YAL PERSONNEL WOULD BE BUILT UP STEADILY OVER PERIOD OF

TIME.

4. WE RAISED QUESTION WHETHER THIS WOULD NOT IMPOSE EXCESSIVE BURDENS ON SAUDIA IN ERA WHEN ITS OWN PERSONNEL AND EQUIPMENT STRETCHED TO MEET RAPIDLY EXPANDING TRAFFIC. CHAMBERS, SENIOR TWA ADVISOR TO SAUDIA, WHO WAS PRESENT, EXPRESSED REAL MISGIVINGS AS TO SAUDIA CAPACITY TAKE ON FULL-SCALE TASK ON LINES DESCRIBED BY SINDI FOR IMPROVING YAL.

5. SINDI, HOWEVER, DID NOT AGREE WITH CONCEPT OF US FIRM SUCH AS TWA MOVING IN TO SUPPORT YAL IN SAME MANNER IT HAD DURING EARLY DAYS OF SAUDI AIRLINE OPERATIONS. DIFFICULTY, SINDI ASSERTED, IS POLITICAL. HE CLAIMED HE HAD REASON BELIEVE BOTH IRAQ AIRLINES AND SYRIAN WOULD BE HAPPY HELP YAR DEVELOP ITS AIR CARRIER. AN OUTSIDE AMERICAN MANAGER WOULD BE VULNERABLE TARGET FOR CRITICISM FROM SUCH COMPETITION. SAG WOULD FIND QUITE UNACCEPTABLE PENETRATION BY BA'ATH POLITICAL ELEMENTS IN SUCH IMPORTANT ASPECT YAR NATIONAL LIFE. ACCORDINGLY HE HELD FIRMLY TO THOUGHT MOST OF JOB OF IMPROVING YAL MUST BE DONE BY SAUDIA.

6. SINDI MENTIONED THAT TWO OR THREE DIFFERENT YAL REPS HAD OVER PAST YEAR COME TO JIDDA FOR DISCUSSIONS. STABLE, DEPENDABLE REPRESENTATIVE WOULD HAVE TO BE FOUND BEFORE MORE DETAILED PLANNING COULD GET UNDERWAY. THACHER

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